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NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

TOPICS OF JURISPRUDENCE CONNECTED WITH THE CONDITIONS OF FREEDOM AND BONDAGE. By JOHN C. HURD, Counsellor at Law. New York: D. Van Nostrand, 192 Broadway. 1858. pp. 496.

In the 4th Am. Law Reg., 772, will be found some notice of an early portion of this work. By the courtesy of the author we have been furnished with some thirty sheets, in advance of publication, which has enabled us to form some judgment as to the character and quality of labors more than usually learned, dealing greatly in the principles of law, and discussing legal topics as matters of strict science.

We have in the first and second chapters, law defined and divided, its object, origin, effect and extent; a discussion of international law, its origin and application, its effects upon the conditions of freedom and bondage. The discussions in these chapters are ample and scientific; every source of authority is explored; the writings of the continental jurists, in Latin, German and French, are constantly referred to, and copious extracts given, by way of illustrations of principle, and as authority. It may be questioned, whether there is to be found a more complete and scientific survey of this branch of legal inquiry. It is less diffuse and extended than the French and German treatises; it is more profound and exact than the inquiries of the English jurists who, until recently, seldom looked beyond Westminster Hall for their learning. Our author cites freely all inquirers in the same path, and derives great aid from Savigny, Foelix, Schaeffner, Waechter, Heffter, Mackeldey, Story, Burge, Reddie, Austin, Phillimore, and other original writers of a like character. The third chapter discusses the municipal—or, *national* law, in the colonies of America; and the extent of the common law. Chapters four to ten continue the same discussion, with the addition of a very interesting inquiry into the principles of universal jurisprudence relating to freedom and its opposites. And with these chapters our sheets fail.

We have been greatly interested in the study of the work, and have taken some pains to present it to our readers. The title of the book is not one that would be apt to attract the general law student, as he might suppose that questions of an exciting character would come under discussion, and partizan views be presented. It is far otherwise. The work is the result of much and extended study. The field of inquiry is large, and has been fully cultivated. We are satisfied that the philosophical reader and the practical lawyer will both derive much knowledge from the careful study of Mr. Hurd's very learned and pains-taking labors.